

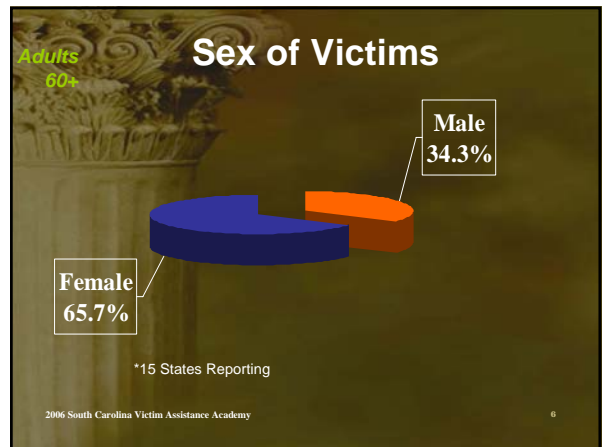
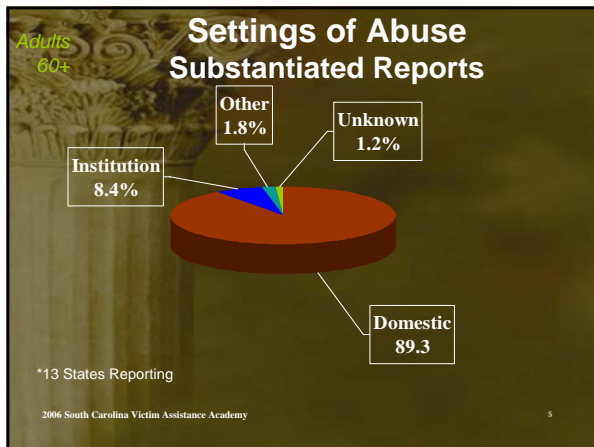
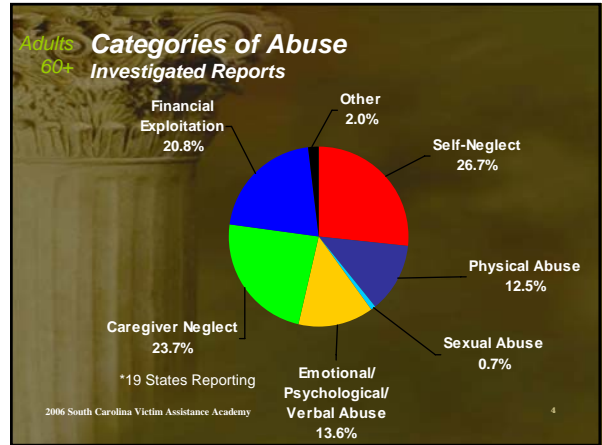
Elder Abuse

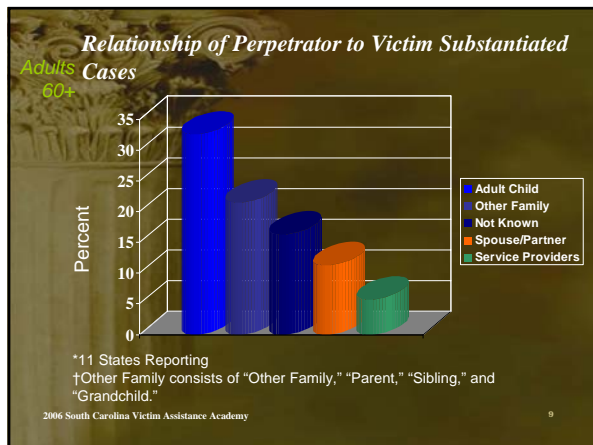
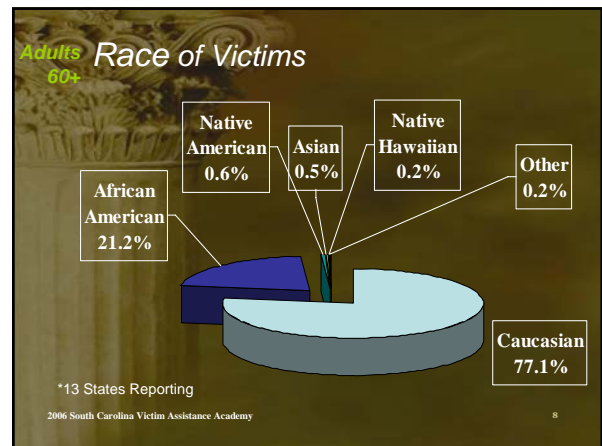
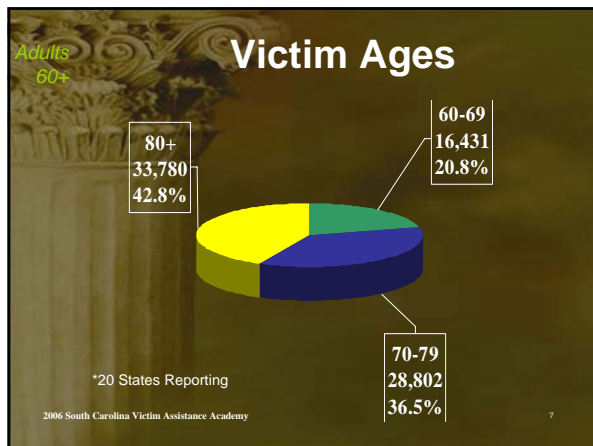
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Elderly as Crime Victims

- Between 1992 and 1997
 - Relative or intimate killed 500 elderly and injured 36,000 elderly each year
 - Relatives and intimates committed over 1 in 4 murders and 1 in 10 non-lethal assaults
 - Murder victims over 64 were twice as likely to be killed by relatives or intimates as persons 12 to 64

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Suspects and Defendants

- Intimate partner → Intimate partner
- Child → Parent
- Grandchild → Grandparent
- Paid caregiver → Care recipient
- Unpaid caregiver → Care recipient
- "Friends" or "neighbors" → Elder

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Risk Factors

- Abuser dependency on the elder
- Victim dependency on abuser (ADL related)
- Disturbed mental state of the abuser
- Frailty, disability, or impairment of elder
- Social isolation of the elder
- Substance abuse or mental pathology of either the elder or abuser
- Prior history of abuse as a caretaker

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Legal Competency vs. Capacity

❑ Legal:

- ❖ Ability to distinguish truth from fantasy
- ❖ Understand truth from fantasy
- ❖ Communicate information to the trier of fact

❑ APS:

- ❖ Ability to understand and appreciate the nature and consequences of making decisions concerning one's person, including provisions for health or mental health care, food, shelter, clothing, safety or financial affairs.

Interviewing Strategies

- Open-ended questions
- Move from general and non-threatening to more specific and personal questions
- Avoid asking leading questions
- Separate the victim from the caretaker
- Memorialize
 - Consider videotaping

Interviewing Issues

❑ Deficits Among Vulnerable Adults

- ❖ Hearing
- ❖ Vision
- ❖ Sundowning
- ❖ Fatigue
- ❖ Illiteracy

Meeting the Victim's Needs

- Address or deflect and then return to issues the victim raises
 - What will happen to my abuser?
 - Who told you what happened?
 - Will I have to testify?
 - Fear of reprisal
- Physical needs (bathroom, climb stairs, medical exam, transportation to interview)
- Medication, meals, hydration
- Need for breaks, fatigue,

Relationship Between Elder Abuse and Domestic Violence





Domestic Violence In Later Life

- Up to one million incidents annually
- Rarely seen in criminal justice system
- Often diverted to aging services
- Victims often left in danger
- Basis is Power and Control

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Forms of Domestic Violence In Later Life

- **Partner/Spouse**
 - Domestic Violence Grown Old
 - New Relationship
 - Late Onset
 - “Reverse” Domestic Violence
- ❑ **Other family members**
 - Confused with Domestic Violence
 - Organic based violence

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What About Caregiver Stress?

- Early theory of elder abuse
- Assumes a well-intending, normally competent caregiver
- Becomes overwhelmed and lashes out
- High stress and low resources results in maltreatment

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Limitations of Caregiver Stress

- Not supported by more recent research (pointing to domestic violence)
- Identifies the victim as the “problem”
- Abuser feels validated
- Leaves victim in harms way
- Victim may become hopeless

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